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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to communicate the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR dated 9 October 1990.

I request that this letter and the annex thereto should be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly and the Security Council under agenda items 23 and 35.

(Signed) Yuliy M. VORONTSOV

best copy available

ANNEX

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR
dated 9 October 1990

The Soviet Union expresses its profound concern over the report of a new outbreak of violence in the Palestinian lands. In the clashes in Jerusalem with the Israeli police, who used weapons, dozens of Palestinians were killed or wounded in the course of a single day, 8 October 1990, and hundreds were arrested, including a leading public figure, Faisal al-Husseini.

The USSR firmly condemns this action by the Israeli authorities and believes that the United Nations Security Council must display the same unanimity and sense of purpose in its approach to the situation in the occupied territories as it effectively demonstrated with regard to Iraq's aggression against Kuwait. As a preliminary step we support the idea of sending to the spot a special United Nations mission to investigate the incident.

The events in Jerusalem, which caused the loss of many human lives, exacerbate an already explosive situation in the Middle East region and create additional obstacles to the establishment of a peace process aimed at the search for a generally acceptable settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

They confirm yet again the need for the immediate implementation of far-reaching measures to improve the situation in the Middle East and settle all its existing conflicts, which have a destabilizing effect both on the region itself and on international relations as a whole.

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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 18

INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

The present report contains replies received from Member States, organizations within the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations, in response to General Assembly decision 44/429 of 11 December 1989 adopted in connection with the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM MEMBER STATES

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[26 June 1990]

1. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has always participated actively and consistently in the joint struggle for the complete elimination of colonialism, racism and apartheid. This has been in line with the founding principles of its foreign policy aimed at strengthening international peace and security and at developing equitable and mutually advantageous co-operation. In this connection, Bulgaria welcomes General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 which proclaimed the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. We share the hope that this document will play an important role in mobilizing the efforts of the international community in attaining the noble goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

2. Bulgaria is of the view that in the international community, where the desire for dialogue and constructive co-operation has prevailed over confrontation and rivalry, favourable conditions are being established for the complete resolution of the problems encountered in the struggle against the remnants of colonialism. An important role was played by the United Nations in the successes scored in this area. The successful completion of the process of granting independence to Namibia under the auspices of the United Nations has clearly demonstrated the potential of the world Organization for an even greater and more significant role in the future.

3. The concrete programme of action called for to usher in mankind in a twenty-first century that is free of any remaining form of national oppression, together with the general principles of guaranteeing self-determination and the right to free political choice, should envisage measures aimed at avoiding the depletion of the natural resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and at preserving the environment. The process of the complete elimination of the remnants of colonialism should also be viewed in connection with the establishment of just and lasting peace in all parts of the planet.

4. Due attention should be given to the elaboration of a special programme for United Nations action in the area of public information with respect to the Decade, fully utilizing the potential of the Organization's entire system in this effort.

5. Bulgaria pledges its readiness to continue to contribute actively to the efforts of the international community aimed at building a world free of all forms of colonialism.

CHILE

[Original: Spanish]

[6 June 1990]

1. Chile has played a resolute, sustained and consistent role with respect to the eradication of colonialism from the world, a task that has been one of the fundamental responsibilities of the United Nations since its inception and which continues to be so. From the outset, Chile has been a full member of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and, in this capacity, has contributed directly to the founding of many independent States. Chile's work in the United Nations Council for Namibia also deserves special mention, Namibia having become a symbol of decolonization brought about by the determined action of the United Nations.

2. Chile encourages and supports increased efforts to ensure that the remaining colonial situations in the world are eliminated in the next 10 years, so that the twenty-first century can usher in a world in which all peoples will have an opportunity to exercise their right to self-determination and where all Territories under colonial administration will have an opportunity to choose to join the community of free and sovereign nations.

3. The Government of Chile believes that efforts aimed at bringing about global decolonization must also focus on perfecting mechanisms whereby new States will be guaranteed resources, support and genuine international solidarity, particularly during the early stages of their independence.

4. The Government of Chile deems it essential to promote an understanding within its own borders of the various aspects of decolonization, for it is confident that future generations will increasingly cherish and value freedom if they are fully aware of what it took to create a world of sovereign peoples with equal rights and responsibilities. The Government of Chile, with the support of the United Nations, will therefore do its utmost throughout the Decade to instil such awareness in its students, possibly by including the subject in the corresponding curricula.

5. Similarly, the Government of Chile will provide information periodically to the mass media so that the vast majority of Chileans will become fully and permanently aware of the issue of decolonization and its importance, thereby strengthening the traditional opposition of Chileans to colonialism, which stems from their profound sense of justice.

6. Lastly, the Government of Chile is staunchly committed to continuing its active diplomatic participation in all forums dealing with decolonization, both within and outside the United Nations system.

CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

[19 March 1990]

1. Since the founding of the United Nations, especially since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in 1960, a large number of countries have shaken off the yoke of colonialism and have won independence and membership in the United Nations. This is an outstanding accomplishment by people of the world in their struggle for decolonization, during which the United Nations has played an important role and made tremendous contributions.

2. By its resolution 43/47 adopted on 22 November 1988, the General Assembly declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. This resolution gave expression to the determination of the international community to eliminate colonialism. Its adoption by the United Nations will serve as an important catalyst for a speedier decolonization process, for which China has expressed its active support.

3. The realization of Namibian independence represents a major achievement for the cause or decolonization. It is the result of the protracted struggle of the Namibian people, the African States and people throughout the world, and has greatly inspired the entire international community. That Namibia has won independence has not only been a dream come true for the long struggling Namibian people but also has had a positive impact on the accelerated realization of national self-determination by the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. While the colonial system is crumbling into dust, there are some Non-Self-Governing Territories that have yet to achieve national self-determination, and the remnants of colonialism of one type or another, are still around. It is China's hope that the administering Powers will discharge to the letter their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on decolonization and help create political and economic conditions necessary for the people of these Territories to speed up the process of self-determination. In the mean time, the United Nations should, in light of the realities in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, formulate effective and practicable measures to further its efforts in bringing colonialism to an end during this Decade.

5. China has always resolutely supported the people of colonies and Non-Self-Governing Territories in their struggle for national self-determination and independence, respected their choices and aspirations, and strictly abided by the relevant United Nations resolutions. It stands firmly opposed to all forms of colonialism. China will continue to make unremitting efforts to ensure the eradication of colonialism.

ECUADOR

[Original: Spanish]

[14 May 1990]

I have the honour to inform you of Ecuador's position on this question:

1. As a free and sovereign State, Ecuador has always made the unconditional rejection of all manifestations of colonialism a key aspect of its foreign policy.

2. Article 4 of the Constitution of Ecuador reads as follows:

> "The Ecuadorian State condemns all forms of colonialism, neo-colonialism and racial discrimination or segregation. It recognizes the right of peoples to free themselves from these oppressive systems."

3. This constitutional principle has been implemented, fully and consistently, through the constant support which Ecuador has given to all resolutions adopted on this issue within the United Nations system as well as through the unwavering solidarity which Ecuador has extended throughout its history as a republic, to a number of liberation movements which have struggled in various parts of the world for their independence.

4. In keeping with the principles on which its foreign policy is based, the Government of Ecuador believes that the United Nations initiative of designating the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is a major contribution to broaden knowlege and acceptance of this principle by the international community, which will in turn lead the way to the eradication of the shameful system of colonialism from the face of the earth.

INDIA

[Original: English]

[9 July 1990]

1. India believes that the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples has been the primary force which has led to the successes in the history of decolonization over the past 30 years. In the context of the struggle for the eradication of colonialism in the remaining 18 Territories on the United Nations agenda, India reaffirms its continuing and firm commitment to the principles enshrined in the Declaration, and its conviction that these principles continue to remain as valid today as they were in 1960 when the Declaration was adopted.

2. Having played a leading role in the struggle against colonialism in all its forms, both within the United Nations and in other forums, India fully recognizes that although the road ahead is far shorter than that already travelled, these last

steps could turn out to be very difficult. It is in this context that India welcomes the proclamation of the last decade of the twentieth century as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

3. By its resolution 35/118 of 11 December 1980, the General Assembly adopted a Plan of Action for the Full Implementation of the Declaration. While some specific measures included in this Plan of Action adopted 10 years ago have, happily, become obsolete with the emergence of the Republic of Namibia, most of the others remain fully relevant today. Their reaffirmation and effective application would go a long way in the eradication of the scourge of colonialism within the coming decade.

4. India would like to take this opportunity to re-emphasize its commitment to the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles enshrined in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, which, along with other related resolutions, must play a vital role in the completion of the decolonization process. It would also like to reiterate its firm conviction that the peoples of each of the world's remaining colonial Territories have an inalienable right to self-determination and to the expression of their political will and desire, with complete knowledge and awareness of the full range of political options available to them regarding their future political status, including independence. The choice of options is not restricted in any way by factors such as territorial size, geographical location, size of population or availability of natural resources. An exercise in self-determination in the colonial Territories must be preceded by adequate and unbiased political sensitization and education of the population.

5. Closely associated with the exercise of self-determination in the world's remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories is a sufficient level of economic self-reliance and military and environmental security; these are necessary adjuncts to a free and fair referendum. Thought would need to be given to the formulation of suitable economic safeguards on the part of the United Nations system to bolster the post-referendum security of these Territories and to reduce vested military interests which at present inhibit their speedy and unconditional decolonization.

6. If the Decade is to achieve its aim of eradicating the scourge of colonialism, the various organs of the United Nations, in co-operation with the States Members of the Organization, will need to play an active role focused specifically towards this aim. In this regard, priority measures should include the issuance of an appeal by the world community to the remaining administering Powers to consider a realistic timetable for each of their respective colonial Territories for the application of the Declaration and the holding of a referendum for self-determination in accordance with the principles and practices of the United Nations. Most of the world's remaining administering Powers have unequivocally stated before the General Assembly that they remain ready to respond positively to the express wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned on the question of self-determination and independence. The United Nations body must now call upon them to demonstrate that willingness.

7. The Special Committee itself would need to play a more dynamic role in overseeing the process of decolonization in these Territories. Its activities

would need to encompass and focus on the present constraints to the exercise of genuine self-determination on a case-by-case basis, taking into account and highlighting factors such as lack of political awareness, economic dependence, change in demographic patterns, military interests, environmental security and other aspects. The Committee should carry out these activities in a constructive manner and in co-operation with the administering Powers. Intensive and specific efforts need to be made for the dissemination of information on the Committee's findings, the political evolution in the Territories, the views of the administering Powers, etc., through all available means of publicity, both in the interests of transparency and of ensuring that the world community is sensitized to the issues involved. In this exercise, the co-operation of the States Members of the United Nations would be invaluable.

8. In the present environment where there is an easing of East-West tensions, India hopes that the administering Powers and the Special Committee, reflecting the changing political world order, will enjoy each other's fullest co-operation and jointly demonstrate the necesary political will to permit the twenty-first century to be born free of colonialism. For its part, India subscribes fully to this noble goal and is ready to apply itself in every manner to its attainment.

IRAQ

[Original: Arabic]

[21 February 1990]

1. There thus emerges the importance of effective United Nations action to thwart the new Zionist scheme by endorsing the popular Palestinian uprising and providing it with additonal support in order to enable it to endure and to stand firm in the face of the barbaric apparatus of Zionist oppression and intimidation. The United Nations must remind the international community that Israel, which asserts the right of Jews to emigrate from the countries to which they belong, which is attempting to direct Jewish immigration to Israel itself and which then announces that immigrants may be settled in the occupied Palestinian Arab Territory, is the same Israel that refuses not only to permit the Palestine refugees to return to their occupied land in accordance with United Nations resolutions but even to acknowledge their right to return, a right that is laid down in article 13, paragrqph 26, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the same paragraph which provides for the right of everyone to leave his country. This being so, the United Nations must urge the international community and governmental and non-governmental organizations to refrain from providing any facilities or assistance to Israel in connection with the immigration and absorption of Jews as long as it refuses to recognize the rights of the Palestine refugees and to permit them to return to their homes. They must also make serious efforts to bring about the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, since that is the only way to ensure that people's right to exercise self-determination and establish an independent State on its national soil.

2. Iraq supported General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 declaring the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, a resolution that came into being as a result of the initiative taken and the efforts made by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and embodied in the final document adopted by the Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries held at Nicosia in September 1988.

3. While commending the success achieved by the United Nations in many of its activities relating to the eradication of colonialism, most recently in the operation in Namibia, Iraq would also like to point to the dangerous escalation in the settler colonialist activity openly engaged in by the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine and to the intensification of campaigns to promote immigration for purposes of settlement, undertaken with the material and moral support of States Members of the United Nations, which constitute a serious threat to international peace and security. The United Nations and all States genuinely concerned about the eradication of colonialism are called upon to put an end to such infractions and flagrant violations of the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and establish an independent State in its homeland, Palestine.

JAMAICA

[Original: English]

[24 May 1990]

1. The successes of the United Nations in the field of decolonization are among its most impressive achievements over the years. The most recent testimony to the outstanding efforts of the United Nations in championing and advancing the cause of self-determination and independence for colonial peoples is Namibia's attainment of independence on 21 March 1990, bringing to an end a critical phase in the history of the decolonization process.

2. The decolonization process is, however, far from complete. Accordingly, the Government of Jamaica fully supports the proclamation by the United Nations of the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in accordance with General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988. Jamaica further endorses the preparation of an action plan aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism.

3. It is widely recognized that the majority of the remaining dependent Territories share the characteristics of island developing countries owing to their smallness, lack of abundant natural resources, heavy dependence on imports, exposure to natural disasters as well as a host of physical and structural constraints on their domestic economies. The widespread devastating effects in 1989 of hurricane Hugo in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Caribbean starkly revealed the vulnerability of the small Territories and the fragility of their precarious socio-economic structures.

4. Jamaica believes that the centre-piece of the proposed plan of action of the Decade should be multilateral assistance and support from the United Nations and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system as well as regional intergovernmental organizations for the sustained development of the small Non-Self-Governing Territories.

5. Consequently, it is recommended that at the onset of the Decade, the United Nations, in consultation with the administering Powers, should closely monitor and assess the situation in the dependencies and lend full support and assistance to efforts under way for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the economies of the affected Territories.

6. At the same time, the plan of action should take into account the extent to which plans for future constitutional and political advancement and progress towards self-determination have been affected by natural disasters, as has been the case in the Caribbean as a result of the devastation of hurricane Hugo. For example, plans for holding a referendum in November 1989 in the United States Virgin Islands to decide the territory's future political status have been set aside indefinitely. Similarly, plans for a national referendum to be held in Montserrat to determine the wishes of the inhabitants about proceeding to independence have also been postponed.

7. It would be appropriate to undertake an updated evaluation of social, economic and political advancement in the remaining dependent Territories. In this regard, it may be useful for the Secretary-General to provide a compendium as an annex to the proposed plan of action, containing a United Nations list of Non-Self-Governing Territories and an assessment of the political and economic status of each of the Territories.

8. With a view to facilitating the decolonization process throughout the Decade, Jamaica believes that the plan of action being prepared by the Secretary-General should include the following:

(a) Review and analysis of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples;

(b) Impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Increased access by Non-Self-Governing Territories to resources and assistance from international organizations, including the United Nations and its bodies, with more direct participation in their programmes and activities, as well as from regional international organizations, in order to facilitate the further development and economic progress of the Territories. These assistance programmes should focus on medium- and long-term efforts to strengthen the social and economic development of the Territories as well as other measures to enhance their security and stability;

(d) Extension, where necessary, to dependent Territories, with the co-operation of the administering Powers, of specific measures being undertaken by

the United Nations in favour of island developing countries, including efforts aimed at targeting the resources of the United Nations Commission on Trade and Development, the World Bank and other United Nations bodies for special developmental assistance and for facilitating cross-reference interchange of information and experience;

(e) Creation of conditions to allow Non-Self-Governing Territories to determine freely their own political, economic and social systems. In this regard, the administering Powers should take the necessary actions to enable dependent peoples to exercise their right to self-determination. The dependent Territories should be fully aware at all stages of their political development of the options open to them in the free exercise of their inalienable rights. This could be achieved through the establishment of more direct contacts between the United Nations and the elected leaders and peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as through the sending of regular United Nations visiting missions to the Territories to monitor and assess the situation.

9. The Government of Jamaica believes that while the decolonization process in the remaining dependent Territories will perhaps be more evolutionary in nature and less dynamic and spectacular than that of the 1960s, it is still necessary for the international community to continue its efforts during the Decade to assist the remaining dependencies further along the path of self-determination and independence.

10. Finally, the Government of Jamaica is of the view that the elaboration of an action plan for the Decade should be guided by the principles governing decolonization which are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples as well as the subsequent plans of action adopted by the General Assembly to implement the Declaration. The proposed plan of action for the Decade should therefore reaffirm those principles and encourage adherence thereto by all administering Powers.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

[Original: Arabic]

[29 March 1990]

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has always been among those States that have urged the necessity of implementing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and reaffirming the inalienble right of those countries and peoples to self-determination and independence. It consequently supports the peoples of colonized areas in their struggle for their freedom and independence. In reaffirming this position, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya proposes that the international community take practical measures to eliminate colonialism from the world by affording those peoples that have not yet attained their freedom an opportunity for self-determination and independence. Despite the territorial size of the colonized area, their geographical location, the number of their inhabitants and the limited nature of their resources, under no circumstances must

there be any delay in the exercise by their peoples of their full right to self-determination and independence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960. And the cultural property, art works, antiquities, objets d'art, manuscripts and documents plundered during the period of colonialism and transported to museums in the colonizing countries must be returned to their countries of origin.

2. Past and present colonial Powers must be called upon to provide appropriate compensation in economic, social, cultural, humanitarian and other forms for their occupation of the developing countries.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[4 April 1990]

1. The Permanent Mission of Mexico wishes to state that the General Assembly's decision to declare the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism represents a reliable indication, in the view of the Government of Mexico, of the interest of most of the international community in seeing that all peoples achieve their freedom through the full exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, and in ushering in a world free from any trace of colonialism in the twenty-first century.

2. On 21 March 1990, the international community watched with profound satisfaction as Namibia finally achieved independence. The Government of Mexico welcomes this momentous event which was made possible by the tenacity of the Namibian people, demonstrated in their struggle to achieve their legitimate aspirations under the leadership of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), and by the arduous work of the United Nations in bringing about the Territory's decolonization, in accordance with Security Council resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978.

3. The independence of Namibia, in addition to being a great achievement for the Organization, offers grounds for hope for other peoples who still live under colonial oppression and are being kept from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence. It ought to give impetus to the international community's endeavour to achieve the total elimination of colonialism in all its manifestations before this century draws to a close.

4. The action plan for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism must unquestionably take as its point of departure a restatement of the need to observe fully and urgently the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 as well as the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

5. Furthermore, the administering Powers must, without setting conditions, take steps to improve the socio-economic situation of the peoples under their control

and set up programmes aimed at educating the populations about the various options available to them in the actual exercise of their right to self-determination, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

6. It is also essential that the colonial Powers should be required to call an immediate halt to the exploitation of the natural and human resources of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to refrain once and for all from using those Territories for political and strategic purposes and, if need be, to withdraw any military installations that threaten both the security of the colonial peoples and international peace and security.

7. It is a source of grave concern to Mexico that, even as a large majority of States are focusing their efforts on finding solutions to the serious problems created by the deterioration of the global environment, some Non-Self-Governing Territories are experiencing a progressive worsening of their environment. It is therefore urgent that more be learned about the environmental situation in those Territories and that the administering Powers be urged to take immediate steps to protect and improve it, such as putting an end to the dumping of contaminants like toxic and dangerous wastes.

8. Faced with the legitimate demand of peoples for self-determination, it is essential for the United Nations decolonization bodies, and particularly the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, to disseminate information more extensively in order to mobilize world opinion in support of the elimination of colonialism. It is likewise essential that all States redouble their efforts to bring about the full and immediate implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

9. The Government of Mexico reiterates its firm commitment to the struggle to ensure that all the peoples of the world will be exercising their inalienable right to self-determination and independence before the twenty-first century is ushered in.

POLAND

[Original: English]

[10 April 1990]

1. The success achieved by the United Nations since the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in 1960 is clearly reflected in the emergence of many independent countries in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and the Americas. This is truly one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations and the whole international community. The granting of independence to Namibia is the latest manifestation as well as confirmation of the efficiency of the United Nations in promoting the transition of colonial countries to independence.

2. The Republic of Poland lends its full support to all United Nations efforts to bring a speedy end to colonialism with due regard to the freely expressed will of the peoples concerned. It is important to note, however, that Poland is of the opinion that with the attainment of independence by Namibia, the whole process of decolonization is quickly approaching its final end. Consequently, the action plan aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism, should not be limited solely to steps towards the complete eradication of the last remnants of colonialism, but should also include measures aimed at strengthening the independence and sovereignty of the post-colonial States as well as assisting them in their economic development. The United Nations must keep in view the numerous complex problems which trouble these States on their way to a truly sovereign existence and should be ready to provide them with real economic, technological, educational and financial aid.

3. The problem of decolonization is closely related to a much broader issue - that of respect for, and realization of, the right of all peoples to determine freely, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development. Poland attaches special importance to this question and wishes to suggest that the plan of action for the implementation of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism should also include steps to promote the combined efforts of the international community to put an end not only to colonialism, but also to all other forms of foreign domination that still exist.

4. Poland consistently stands in favour of solving all international conflicts exclusively through political means - this especially applies to conflicts which arise from the aspirations of peoples for independence and freedom. Consequently, we believe that the United Nations, when drawing up the action plan, must take special care to include only such steps and measures which will generate a favourable climate for achieving peaceful solutions by way of dialogue and compromise.

5. Once again Poland wishes to reaffirm its support for the goals of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and express its readiness to participate actively in the implementation of the Decade.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

[Original: English]

[30 March 1990]

1. Decolonization is undeniably one of the success stories of the United Nations. Namibia's gaining of independence last March was the conclusion of another chapter of this success story.

2. Much, however, remains to be done for there are still 18 Territories remaining on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories. New Caledonia is one such Territory.

3. It is the conviction of the Government of Solomon Islands that a free and genuine act of self-determination in New Caledonia must be consistent with the established principles and practices of the United Nations.

4. On the action plan aimed at freeing the world from colonialism by the year 2000, Solomon Islands suggests the following measures:

(a) Reaffirm that Article 73 of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960 have laid down the fundamental principles governing decolonization and that they should constitute the nucleus of any action plan aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism;

(b) Reaffirm that any act of self-determination must be consistent with the established principles and practices of the United Nations;

(c) Appeal to the administering Powers to facilitate the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to, and provide up-to-date information on, these Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(d) Grant material, technical and financial assistance to the colonized peoples in the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations;

(e) Set up a public awareness programme by means of seminars, radio broadcasts, etc. on the goals and purposes of the Decade;

(f) Reaffirm that the question of location, limited resources, population and territorial size are irrelevant when it comes to the right to self-determination.

5. General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988 proclaiming 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, is indeed timely and Solomon Islands welcomes the role of the Secretary-General in the preparation of an action plan to end colonialism.

SUDAN

[Original: English]

[20 February 1990]

1. The Sudan has supported all General Assembly resolutions on the importance of granting independence to colonial countries and peoples.

2. Furthermore, the Sudan was among the first States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and the Organization of African Unity to formulate resolutions on the right of peoples to self-determination and full political independence.

3. The achievement of the international community in the elimination of colonialism up to the present time is a cause for satisfaction and for optimism that the 1990s will witness the end of colonialism in its old form, as represented by the occupation of alien Territories and the foreign domination of the political aspirations of a number of peoples and countries still suffering under the colonial yoke.

4. The Sudan is deeply concerned, however, about the various recent forms of colonialism and foreign domination.

5. In that connection, it is incumbent upon the United Nations, in the context of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, to concern itself with the elimination of all forms of colonialism and to ensure that all peoples of the world can regain their full freedom and throw off all forms of foreign domination in the political, economic and social fields.

6. The Sudan, which respects and believes in the struggle of peoples and liberation movements seeking to implement the national will and bring about the withdrawal of the invader, considers that the best way to eliminate colonialism is by peaceful means and through dialogue and negotiations.

7. In that endeavour, the United Nations has a fundamental, guiding role to play. That role will not be crowned with success until there is total commitment by Member States, both large and small, to respect and comply fully with United Nations resolutions on the elimination of colonialism in all its forms.

VANUATU

[Original: English]

[8 December 1989]

1. The Republic of Vanuatu believes that the decolonization process must continue to be a high international priority until the people of every Non-Self-Governing Territory have been permitted to exercise freely their right to self-determination and independence. Vanuatu is firmly committed to the decolonization process, and will continue to support actively the principles of decolonization set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and subsequently codified in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

2. The successes achieved to date in the area of decolonization rank among the most notable accomplishments of the United Nations. The mosaic of humanity reflected in the current membership of the United Nations is living evidence of the accomplishments of the decolonization process.

3. It is the view of the Government of Vanuatu, however, that our past successes must not distract the international community from what remains to be achieved in the area of decolonization. On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the

historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, we must celebrate what has been achieved thus far and reiterate our firm conviction that mankind will enter the twenty-first century without a single remaining Non-Self-Governing Territory.

4. Vanuatu appreciates the broad international consensus that has evolved in the course of the decolonization process. Through the efforts of many Governments, the Secretariat of the United Nations, the specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and eminent personalities, a new jurisprudence has developed which clearly establishes that no nation and no people shall be forced to endure the pain and humiliation of political colonialism.

5. In order to ensure further success in the decolonization process and the successful completion of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Government of Vanuatu proposes that:

(a) A visit be made to each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, or a specially designated representative of the Secretary-General, as close as practical to the onset of the Decade;

(b) An extensive study of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories be undertaken by the United Nations and widely distributed to every Government and all interested non-governmental organizations, news media, schools and universities, religious institutions and cultural organizations and the general public;

(c) Film, radio and print materials on the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories be prepared by the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat for world-wide distribution;

(d) An appeal be issued urging those still administering Non-Self-Governing Territories to establish the necessary conditions, as soon as possible, to enable the peoples of those Territories to gain their political and economic independence prior to 31 December 1999, in accordance with the principles and practices of the United Nations;

(e) An appeal be issued urging the remaining administering Powers to transmit information, in accordance with Article 73 e of the Charter, and to take necessary measures to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(f) All States be requested to consider the adoption of national legislation discouraging commercial enterprises from continuing or initiating activities that are prejudicial to the exercise of the right to self-determination and independence by the peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(g) All States be requested to consider the adoption of national legislation to promote the human rights of peoples living under foreign domination, and facilitating their recourse to judicial proceedings in order to gain economic and social restitution;

(h) The effectiveness and stature of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies concerned with decolonization be strengthened;

(i) Resources available for the dissemination of information to the general international public on the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories be increased;

(j) The number of available scholarships and training facilities, particularly in the area of the acquisition of technical skills, for peoples of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories be increased.

6. The Government of Vanuatu believes that the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories present special difficulties and require very careful thought and analysis. It is the Government's hope that the Decade will be characterized by a co-operative spirit, the strengthening of international democracy and increased respect for the equality of all countries, all peoples and all cultures.

YUGOSLAVIA

[Original: English]

[27 March 1990]

1. The United Nations will soon mark the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, which represents one of the most important accomplishments in the history of the United Nations. Although most colonial countries have gained independence through the successful implementation of the decolonization process and have joined the world Organization, this process is not yet complete. Unfortunately, even today, at the end of the twentieth century, 18 Territories have not as yet realized their right to self-government and independence. The United Nations therefore deemed it necessary to declare the period from 1990 to 2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism so that the world in the twenty-first century may be free from colonialism.

2. The world Organization should continue to contribute resolutely, as it has done since its foundation, to the completion of this process. All Member States are expected to intensify their efforts and bring about the attainment of this goal without delay.

3. As a result of the long-standing, persistent efforts of the States Members of the United Nations and of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, the United Nations plan for Namibia has been implemented, thus making possible the accession to independence of this last major Territory under colonial rule. Namibia's independence represents a victory of the principles the United Nations has stood for since it was founded, as well as a great success for the United Nations and an excellent example of the co-operation of the entire international community.

4. The process of decolonization would have, no doubt, been completed long ago if the will of peoples under colonial domination had been respected in all instances. Therefore, contentions that most of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are unable to survive as independent entities in international relations, or that their present status reflects the will of the indigenous population, ought to be verified very carefully. In this context, Yugoslavia wishes to stress, on this occasion as well, the importance of and the need for full, consistent and universal application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to all remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, regardless of their size, geographical location, number of inhabitants or limited natural resources.

5. Yugoslavia hopes that the current positive changes in international relations will also have an impact on the acceleration of the process of final elimination of the vestiges of colonialism.

6. At the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Belgrade in September 1989, the Heads of State or Government, inter alia, demanded the immediate and complete implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and, in that context, welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, which declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Accordingly, the non-aligned countries will actively work for the adoption and carrying out of the United Nations Plan of Action for the implementation of the Decade.

7. It is very important that the international community, in particular the United Nations, should exert influence on the administering Powers to take joint action aimed at creating the political, economic, social, educational, cultural and other conditions necessary for the autonomous and independent development of the populations of Non-Self-Governing Territories. This concerns particularly the upgrading of the political culture of the populations of Non-Self-Governing Territories in order to enable them to exercise, freely and without outside pressure, their legitimate right to self-determination in a form reflecting their authentic interests and aspirations, with the United Nations playing an appropriate role in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

8. Consequently, it is necessary for the administering Powers to comply fully with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and to co-operate with the United Nations with a view to eliminating colonialism.

9. To this end, a more active engagement of the United Nations in the dissemination of information on the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories through special publications on decolonization, public film projections, photo shows, seminars, etc., is of great importance.

10. The very active engagement of the United Nations and the international community in the past imposes on them the obligation to continue to follow the

development of the countries which have gained independence, so as to be able to render these countries the necessary assistance.

11. As Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and as a member of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, Yugoslavia stands ready to make its full contribution towards finding durable solutions for all remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, on the basis of full respect for, and the fulfilment of, the authentic interests and aspirations of the peoples of these Territories.

12. The assertions that the process of decolonization has generally been completed will be justified only when the people of the very last Non-Self-Governing Territory is afforded the opportunity to decide freely and independently on its future development. That is an imperative not only for the United Nations, which will thus be brought even closer to complete universality, but also for a new, more humane society and relations in the international community in the twenty-first century.

III. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION (ILO)

[Original: English]

[5 April 1990]

1. The Declaration of Philadelphia, which forms part of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), affirms that the principles that it contains are applicable to all peoples everywhere, and calls for the progressive application of these principles to peoples who are still dependent. ILO has therefore consistently provided assistance to enable such peoples to be self-reliant upon attaining their independence and has, in particular, assisted in the development of free and independent organizations of employers and workers. Its assistance includes research and dissemination of information, technical co-operation activities, monitoring of measures carried out against apartheid by ILO's tripartite members, and other forms of action by the International Labour Conference and the ILO Governing Body. The areas covered include, in particular, the development of labour administration and labour legislation, workers' education and assistance to employers' organizations, as well as vocational training, vocational rehabilitation, employment planning and promotion, rural development, small enterprise development and the protection of migrant workers.

2. It is through the continuation of such action promoting self-reliance that ILO intends to support the objectives of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

IV. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

[Original: Spanish]

[18 November 1989]

PARTICIPATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR THE ERADICATION OF COLONIALISM AND THE STATUS OF COLONIAL TERRITORIES IN THE AMERICAN HEMISPHERE

(Draft resolution approved at the sixth session of the General Committee, held on 17 November 1989)

WHEREAS:

Resolution AG/RES. 741 (XIV-O/84) of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States declares that the question of granting independence to colonial countries and peoples is one of the innumerable principles that the Organization of American States and the United Nations closely share;

In resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, the United Nations General Assembly declared the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

In resolution AG/RES. 107 (III-O/73) the General Assembly stated that "the evolution of the situation in the Americas, particularly with regard to the process of eliminating colonialism, is of interest to the Organization of American States"; and

The similarity of objectives between the United Nations and the Organization of American States with regard to the eradication of all forms of colonialism calls for the active and resolute solidarity of the inter-American system in the cause of decolonization.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RESOLVES:

1. To associate fully in the activities conducted by the United Nations during the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

2. To request the General Secretariat to co-ordinate for that purpose with the appropriate bodies of the United Nations, any activities and actions that the Organization of American States might carry out to contribute to the process of world-wide decolonization in general and that of the American hemisphere in particular, in view of the right of all peoples to self-determination.

3. To instruct the General Secretariat to prepare a study on these topics and to present it to the General Assembly at its twentieth regular session.

4. To instruct the General Secretariat to transmit the text of this resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, through him, to the General Assembly of that Organization.

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Agenda item 151

CEREMONY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE DECLARATION AND PLAN OF ACTION ADOPTED BY WORLD LEADERS AT THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, adopted by the World Summit for Children, at New York on 30 September 1990 (see annex).

ANNEX

WORLD DECLARATION ON THE SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

AND

PLAN OF ACTION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE WORLD DECLARATION ON THE SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE 1990s

WORLD SUMMIT FOR CHILDREN

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
30 September 1990

WORLD DECLARATION ON THE SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

1. We have gathered at the World Summit for Children to undertake a joint commitment and to make an urgent universal appeal—to give every child a better future.

2. The children of the world are innocent, vulnerable and dependent. They are also curious, active and full of hope. Their time should be one of joy and peace, of playing, learning and growing. Their future should be shaped in harmony and co-operation. Their lives should mature, as they broaden their perspectives and gain new experiences.

3. But for many children, the reality of childhood is altogether different.

The challenge

4. Each day, countless children around the world are exposed to dangers that hamper their growth and development. They suffer immensely as casualties of war and violence; as victims of racial discrimination, apartheid, aggression, foreign occupation and annexation; as refugees and displaced children, forced to abandon their homes and their roots; as disabled; or as victims of neglect, cruelty and exploitation.

5. Each day, millions of children suffer from the scourges of poverty and economic crisis—from hunger and homelessness, from epidemics and illiteracy, from degradation of the environment. They suffer from the grave effects of the problems of external indebtedness and also from the lack of sustained and sustainable growth in many developing countries, particularly the least developed ones.

6. Each day, 40,000 children die from malnutrition and disease, including acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), from the lack of clean water and inadequate sanitation and from the effects of the drug problem.

7. These are challenges that we, as political leaders, must meet.

The opportunity

8. Together, our nations have the means and the knowledge to protect the lives and to diminish enormously the suffering of children, to promote the full development of their human potential and to make them aware of their needs, rights and opportunities. The Convention on the Rights of the Child provides a new opportunity to make respect for children's rights and welfare truly universal.

9. Recent improvements in the international political climate can facilitate this task. Through international co-operation and solidarity it should now be possible to achieve concrete results in many fields—to revitalize economic growth and development, to protect the environment, to prevent the spread of fatal and crippling diseases and to achieve greater social and economic justice. The current moves towards disarmament also mean that significant resources could be released for purposes other than military ones. Improving the well-being of children must be a very high priority when these resources are reallocated.

The task

10. Enhancement of children's health and nutrition is a first duty, and also a task for which solutions are now within reach. The lives of tens of thousands of boys and girls can be saved every day, because the causes of their death are readily preventable. Child and infant mortality is unacceptably high in many parts of the world, but can be lowered dramatically with means that are already known and easily accessible.

11. Further attention, care and support should be accorded to disabled children, as well as to other children in very difficult circumstances.

12. Strengthening the role of women in general and ensuring their equal rights will be to the advantage of the world's children. Girls must be given equal treatment and opportunities from the very beginning.

13. At present, over 100 million children are without basic schooling, and two-thirds of them are girls. The provision of basic education and literacy for all are among the most important contributions that can be made to the development of the world's children.

14. Half a million mothers die each year from causes related to childbirth. Safe motherhood must be promoted in all possible ways. Emphasis must be placed on responsible planning of family size and on child spacing. The family, as a fundamental group and natural environment for the growth and well-being of children, should be given all necessary protection and assistance.

15. All children must be given the chance to find their identity and realize their worth in a safe and supportive environment, through families and other care-givers committed to their welfare. They must be prepared for responsible life in a free society. They should, from their early years, be encouraged to participate in the cultural life of their societies.

16. Economic conditions will continue to influence greatly the fate of children, especially in developing nations. For the sake of the future of all children, it is urgently necessary to ensure or reactivate sustained and sustainable economic growth and development in all countries and also to continue to give urgent attention to an early, broad and durable solution to the external debt problems facing developing debtor countries.

17. These tasks require a continued and concerted effort by all nations, through national action and international co-operation.

The commitment

18. The well-being of children requires political action at the highest level. We are determined to take that action.

19. We ourselves hereby make a solemn commitment to give high priority to the rights of children, to their survival and to their protection and development. This will also ensure the well-being of all societies.

20. We have agreed that we will act together, in international co-operation, as well as in our respective countries. We now commit ourselves to the following 10-point programme to protect the rights of children and to improve their lives:

    (1) We will work to promote earliest possible ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Programmes to encourage information about children's rights should be launched world-wide, taking into account the distinct cultural and social values in different countries.

    (2) We will work for a solid effort of national and international action to enhance children's health, to promote pre-natal care and to lower infant and child mortality in all countries and among all peoples. We will promote the provision of clean water in all communities for all their children, as well as universal access to sanitation.

    (3) We will work for optimal growth and development in childhood, through measures to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and famine, and thus to relieve millions of children of tragic sufferings in a world that has the means to feed all its citizens.

    (4) We will work to strengthen the role and status of women. We will promote responsible planning of family size, child spacing, breastfeeding and safe motherhood.

(5) We will work for respect for the role of the family in providing for children and will support the efforts of parents, other care-givers and communities to nurture and care for children, from the earliest stages of childhood through adolescence. We also recognize the special needs of children who are separated from their families.

(6) We will work for programmes that reduce illiteracy and provide educational opportunities for all children, irrespective of their background and gender; that prepare children for productive employment and lifelong learning opportunities, i. e. through vocational training; and that enable children to grow to adulthood within a supportive and nurturing cultural and social context.

(7) We will work to ameliorate the plight of millions of children who live under especially difficult circumstances—as victims of apartheid and foreign occupation; orphans and street children and children of migrant workers; the displaced children and victims of natural and man-made disasters; the disabled and the abused, the socially disadvantaged and the exploited. Refugee children must be helped to find new roots in life. We will work for special protection of the working child and for the abolition of illegal child labour. We will do our best to ensure that children are not drawn into becoming victims of the scourge of illicit drugs.

(8) We will work carefully to protect children from the scourge of war and to take measures to prevent further armed conflicts, in order to give children everywhere a peaceful and secure future. We will promote the values of peace, understanding and dialogue in the education of children. The essential needs of children and families must be protected even in times of war and in violence-ridden areas. We ask that periods of tranquillity and special relief corridors be observed for the benefit of children, where war and violence are still taking place.

(9) We will work for common measures for the protection of the environment, at all levels, so that all children can enjoy a safer and healthier future.

(10) We will work for a global attack on poverty, which would have immediate benefits for children's welfare. The vulnerability and special needs of the children of the developing countries, and in particular the least developed ones, deserve priority. But growth and development need promotion in all States, through national action and international co-operation. That calls for transfers of appropriate additional resources to developing countries as well as improved terms of trade, further trade liberalization and measures for debt relief. It also implies structural adjustments that promote world economic growth, particularly in developing countries, while ensuring the well-being of the most vulnerable sectors of the populations, in particular the children.

The next steps

21. The World Summit for Children has presented us with a challenge to take action. We have agreed to take up that challenge.

22. Among the partnerships we seek, we turn especially to children themselves. We appeal to them to participate in this effort.

23. We also seek the support of the United Nations system, as well as other international and regional organizations, in the universal effort to promote the well-being of children. We ask for greater involvement on the part of non-governmental organizations, in complementing national efforts and joint international action in this field.

24. We have decided to adopt and implement a Plan of Action, as a framework for more specific national and international undertakings. We appeal to all our colleagues to endorse that Plan. We are prepared to make available the resources to meet these commitments, as part of the priorities of our national plans.

25. We do this not only for the present generation, but for all generations to come. There can be no task nobler than giving every child a better future.

New York, 30 September 1990

PLAN OF ACTION FOR IMPLEMENTING THE WORLD DECLARATION ON THE SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE 1990s

I. INTRODUCTION

II. SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

Child health

Food and nutrition

Role of women, maternal health and family planning

Role of the family

Basic education and literacy

Children in especially difficult circumstances

Protection of children during armed conflicts

Children and the environment

Alleviation of poverty and revitalization of economic growth

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND MONITORING

Action at the national level

Action at the international level

Appendix:

Goals for children and development in the 1990s

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This Plan of Action is intended as a guide for national Governments, international organizations, bilateral aid agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and all other sectors of society in formulating their own programmes of action for ensuring the implementation of the Declaration of the World Summit for Children.

2. The needs and problems of children vary from country to country, and indeed from community to community. Individual countries and groups of countries, as well as international, regional, national and local organizations, may use this Plan of Action to develop their own specific programmes in line with their needs, capacity and mandates. However, parents, elders and leaders at all levels throughout the world have certain common aspirations for the well-being of their children. This Plan of Action deals with these common aspirations, suggesting a set of goals and targets for children in the 1990s, strategies for reaching those goals and commitments for action and follow-up measures at various levels.

3. Progress for children should be a key goal of overall national development. It should also form an integral part of the broader international development strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade. As today's children are the citizens of tomorrow's world, their survival, protection and development is the prerequisite for the future development of humanity. Empowerment of the younger generation with knowledge and resources to meet their basic human needs and to grow to their full potential should be a primary goal of national development. As their individual development and social contribution will shape the future of the world, investment in children's health, nutrition and education is the foundation for national development.

4. The aspirations of the international community for the well-being of children are best reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1989. This Convention sets universal legal standards for the protection of children against neglect, abuse and exploitation, as well as guaranteeing to them their basic human rights, including survival, development and full participation in social, cultural, educational and other endeavours necessary for their individual growth and well-being. The Declaration of the World Summit calls on all Governments to promote earliest possible ratification and implementation of the Convention.

5. In the past two years, a set of goals for children and development in the 1990s has been formulated in several international forums attended by virtually all Governments, relevant United Nations agencies and major NGOs. In support of these goals and in line with the growing international consensus in favour of greater attention to the human dimension of development in the 1990s, this Plan of Action calls for concerted national action and international co-operation to strive for the achievement, in all countries, of the following major goals for the survival, protection and development of children by the year 2000.

   (a) Reduction of 1990 under-5 child mortality rates by one third or to a level of 70 per 1,000 live births, whichever is the greater reduction;

   (b) Reduction of maternal mortality rates by half of 1990 levels;

   (c) Reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-5 children by one half of 1990 levels;

   (d) Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal;

   (e) Universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school age children;

   (f) Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate to at least half its 1990 level (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country), with emphasis on female literacy;

   (g) Protection of children in especially difficult circumstances, particularly in situations of armed conflicts.

6. A list of more detailed sectoral goals and specific actions which would enable the attainment of the above major goals can be found in the appendix to this Plan of Action. These goals will first need to be adapted to the specific realities of each country in terms of phasing, priorities, standards and availability of resources. The strategies for the achievement of the goals may also vary from country to country. Some countries may wish to add other development goals that are uniquely important and relevant for their specific country situation. Such adaptation of the goals is of crucial importance to ensure their technical validity, logistical feasibility, financial affordability and to secure political commitment and broad public support for their achievement.

II. SPECIFIC ACTIONS FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT

7. Within the context of these overall goals, there are promising opportunities for eradicating or virtually eliminating age-old diseases that have afflicted tens of millions of children for centuries and for improving the quality of life of generations to come. Achievement of these goals would also contribute to lowering population growth, as sustained decline in child death rates towards the level at which parents become confident that their first children will survive is, with some time lag, followed by even greater reduction in child

births. To seize these opportunities the Declaration of the World Summit for Children calls for specific actions in the following areas:

The Convention on the Rights of the Child

8. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, contains a comprehensive set of international legal norms for the protection and well-being of children. All Governments are urged to promote earliest possible ratification of the Convention, where it has not already been ratified. Every possible effort should be made in all countries to disseminate the Convention and, wherever it has already been ratified, to promote its implementation and monitoring.

Child health

9. Preventable childhood diseases—such as measles, polio, tetanus, tuberculosis, whooping cough and diphtheria, against which there are effective vaccines, and diarrhoeal diseases, pneumonia and other acute respiratory infections that can be prevented or effectively treated through relatively low-cost remedies—are currently responsible for the great majority of the world's 14 million deaths of children under 5 years and disability of millions more every year. Effective action can and must be taken to combat these diseases by strengthening primary health care and basic health services in all countries.

10. Besides these readily preventable or treatable diseases and some others, such as malaria, which have proved more difficult to combat, children today are faced with the new spectre of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) pandemic. In the most seriously affected countries HIV/AIDS threatens to offset the gains of child survival programmes. It is already a major drain on limited public health resources needed to support other priority health services. The consequences of HIV/AIDS go well beyond the suffering and death of the infected child and include risks and stigmas that affect parents and siblings and the tragedy of "AIDS orphans". There is an urgent need to ensure that programmes for the prevention and treatment of AIDS, including research on possible vaccines and cures that can be applicable in all countries and situations, and massive information and education campaigns, receive a high priority for both national action and international co-operation.

11. A major factor affecting the health of children as well as adults is the availability of clean water and safe sanitation. These are not only essential for human health and well-being, but also contribute greatly to the emancipation of women from the drudgery that has a pernicious impact on children, especially girls. Progress in child health is unlikely to be sustained if one third of the developing world's children remain without access to clean drinking water and half of them without adequate sanitary facilities.

12. Based on the experience of the past decade, including the many innovations in simple, low-cost techniques and technologies to provide clean water and safe sanitary facilities in rural areas and urban shanty towns, it is now desirable as well as feasible, through concerted national action and international co-operation, to aim at providing all the world's children with universal access to safe drinking water and sanitary means of excreta disposal by the year 2000. An important related benefit of universal access to water and sanitation combined with health education will be the control of many water-borne diseases, among them elimination of guinea-worm disease (dracunculiasis), which currently afflicts some 10 million children in parts of Africa and Asia.

Food and nutrition

13. Hunger and malnutrition in their different forms contribute to about half of the deaths of young children. More than 20 million children suffer from severe malnutrition, 150 million are underweight and 350 million women suffer from nutritional anaemia. Improved nutrition requires (a) adequate household food security, (b) healthy environment and control of infections and (c) adequate maternal and child care. With the right policies, appropriate institutional arrangements and political priority, the world is now in a position to feed all the world's children and to overcome the worst forms of malnutrition, i.e. drastically to reduce diseases that contribute to malnutrition, to halve protein-energy malnutrition, virtually to eliminate vitamin A deficiency and iodine deficiency disorders and to reduce nutritional anaemia significantly.

14. For the young child and the pregnant woman, provision of adequate food during pregnancy and lactation; promotion, protection and support of breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, including frequent feeding; growth monitoring with appropriate follow-up actions; and nutritional surveillance are the most essential needs. As the child grows older, and for the adult population as a whole, an adequate diet is an obvious human priority. Meeting this need requires employment and income-generating opportunities, dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production and distribution. These are key actions within broader national strategies to combat hunger and malnutrition.

Role of women, maternal health and family planning

15. Women in their various roles play a critical part in the well-being of children. The enhancement of the status of women and their equal access to education, training, credit and other extension services constitute a valuable contribution to a nation's social and economic development. Efforts for the enhancement of women's status and their role in development must begin with the girl child. Equal opportunity should be provided for the girl child to benefit from the health, nutrition, education and other basic services to enable her to grow to her full potential.

16. Maternal health, nutrition and education are important for the survival and well-being of women in their own right and are key determinants of the health and well-being of the child in early infancy. The causes of the high rates of infant mortality, especially neonatal mortality, are linked to untimely pregnancies, low birth weight and pre-term births, unsafe delivery, neonatal tetanus, high fertility rates, etc. These are also major risk factors for maternal mortality claiming the lives of 500,000 young women each year and resulting in ill-health and suffering for many millions more. To redress this tragedy, special attention should be given to health, nutrition and education of women.

17. All couples should have access to information on the importance of responsible planning of family size and the many advantages of child spacing to avoid pregnancies that are too early, too late, too many or too frequent. Pre-natal care, clean delivery, access to referral facilities in complicated cases, tetanus toxoid vaccination and prevention of anaemia and other nutritional deficiencies during pregnancy are other important interventions to ensure safe motherhood and a healthy start in life for the newborn. There is an added benefit of promoting maternal and child health programmes and family planning together in that, acting synergistically, these activities help accelerate the reduction of both mortality and fertility rates, and contribute more to lowering rates of population growth than either type of activity alone.

Role of the family

18. The family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children from infancy to adolescence. Introduction of children to the culture, values and norms of their society begins in the family. For the full and harmonious development of their personality, children should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding. Accordingly, all institutions of society should respect and support the efforts of parents and other care-givers to nurture and care for children in a family environment.

19. Every effort should be made to prevent the separation of children from their families. Whenever children are separated from their family owing to force majeur or in their own best interest, arrangements should be made for appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement, due regard being paid to the desirability of continuity in a child's upbringing in his or her own cultural milieu. Extended families, relatives and community institutions should be given support to help to meet the special needs of orphaned, displaced and abandoned children. Efforts must be made to ensure that no child is treated as an outcast from society.

Basic education and literacy

20. The international community, including virtually all the Governments of the world, have undertaken a commitment at the World Conference on Education for All at Jomtien, Thailand, to increase significantly educational opportunity

for over 100 million children and nearly 1 billion adults, two thirds of them girls and women, who at present have no access to basic education and literacy. In fulfilment of that commitment, specific measures must be adopted for (a) the expansion of early childhood development activities, (b) universal access to basic education, including completion of primary education or equivalent learning achievement by at least 80 per cent of the relevant school-age children with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls, (c) the reduction of adult illiteracy by half, with emphasis on female literacy, (d) vocational training and preparation for employment and (e) increased acquisition of knowledge, skills and values through all educational channels, including modern and traditional communication media, to improve the quality of life of children and families.

21. Besides its intrinsic value for human development and improving the quality of life, progress in education and literacy can contribute significantly to improvement in maternal and child health, in protection of the environment and in sustainable development. As such, investment in basic education must be accorded a high priority in national action as well as international co-operation.

Children in especially difficult circumstances

22. Millions of children around the world live under especially difficult circumstances—as orphans and street children, as refugees or displaced persons, as victims of war and natural and man-made disasters, including such perils as exposure to radiation and dangerous chemicals, as children of migrant workers and other socially disadvantaged groups, as child workers or youth trapped in the bondage of prostitution, sexual abuse and other forms of exploitation, as disabled children and juvenile delinquents and as victims of apartheid and foreign occupation. Such children deserve special attention, protection and assistance from their families and communities and as part of national efforts and international co-operation.

23. More than 100 million children are engaged in employment, often heavy and hazardous and in contravention of international conventions which provide for their protection from economic exploitation and from performing work that interferes with their education and is harmful to their health and full development. With this in mind, all States should work to end such child-labour practices and see how the conditions and circumstances of children in legitimate employment can be protected to provide adequate opportunity for their healthy upbringing and development.

24. Drug abuse has emerged as a global menace to very large numbers of young people and, increasingly, children—including permanent damage incurred in the pre-natal stages of life. Concerted action is needed by Governments and intergovernmental agencies to combat illicit production, supply, demand, trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances to

counter this tragedy. Equally important is community action and education, which are vitally needed to curb both the supply of and the demand for illicit drugs. Tobacco and alcohol abuse are also problems requiring action, especially preventive measures and education among young people.

Protection of children during armed conflicts

25. Children need special protection in situations of armed conflict. Recent examples in which countries and opposing factions have agreed to suspend hostilities and adopt special measures such as "corridors of peace" to allow relief supplies to reach women and children and "days of tranquillity" to vaccinate and to provide other health services for children and their families in areas of conflict need to be applied in all such situations. Resolution of a conflict need not be a prerequisite for measures explicitly to protect children and their families to ensure their continuing access to food, medical care and basic services, to deal with trauma resulting from violence and to exempt them from other direct consequences of violence and hostilities. To build the foundation for a peaceful world where violence and war will cease to be acceptable means for settling disputes and conflicts, children's education should inculcate the values of peace, tolerance, understanding and dialogue.

Children and the environment

26. Children have the greatest stake in the preservation of the environment and its judicious management for sustainable development as their survival and development depends on it. The child survival and development goals proposed for the 1990s in this Plan of Action seek to improve the environment by combating disease and malnutrition and promoting education. These contribute to lowering death rates as well as birth rates, improved social services, better use of natural resources and, ultimately, to the breaking of the vicious cycle of poverty and environmental degradation.

27. With their relatively low use of capital resources and high reliance on social mobilization, community participation and appropriate technology, the programmes designed to reach the child-related goals of the 1990s are highly compatible with and supportive of environmental protection. The goals for the survival, protection and development of children as enunciated in this Plan of Action should therefore be seen as helping to protect and preserve the environment. Still more action is needed, of course, to prevent the degradation of the environment in both the industrialized and the developing countries, through changes in the wasteful consumption patterns of the affluent and by helping to meet the necessities of survival and development of the poor. Programmes for children that not only help to meet their basic needs but which inculcate in them respect for the natural environment with the diversity of life that it sustains and its beauty and resourcefulness that enhance the quality of human life, must figure prominently in the world's environmental agenda.

Alleviation of poverty and revitalization of economic growth

28. Achievement of child related goals in the areas of health, nutrition, education, etc., will contribute much to alleviating the worst manifestations of poverty. But much more will need to be done to ensure that a solid economic base is established to meet and sustain the goals for long-term child survival, protection and development.

29. As affirmed by the international community at the eighteenth special session of the United Nations General Assembly (April 1990), a most important challenge for the 1990s is the need for revitalization of economic growth and social development in the developing countries and to address together the problems of abject poverty and hunger that continue to afflict far too many people in the world. As the most vulnerable segment of human society, children have a particular stake in sustained economic growth and alleviation of poverty, without which their well-being cannot be secured.

30. To foster a favourable international economic environment, it is essential to continue to give urgent attention to an early, broad and durable solution to the external debt problems facing developing debtor countries; to mobilize external and domestic resources to meet the increasing needs for development finance of developing countries; to take steps to ensure that the problem of the net transfer of resources from developing to developed countries does not continue in the 1990s and that its impact is effectively addressed; to create a more open and equitable trading system to facilitate the diversification and modernization of the economies of developing countries, particularly those that are commodity-dependent; and to make available substantial concessional resources, particularly for the least developed countries.

31. In all of these efforts the fulfilment of the basic needs of children must receive a high priority. Every possible opportunity should be explored to ensure that programmes benefiting children, women and other vulnerable groups are protected in times of structural adjustments and other economic restructuring. For example, as countries reduce military expenditures, part of the resources released should be channelled to programmes for social and economic development, including those benefiting children. Debt-relief schemes could be formulated in ways that the budget reallocations and renewed economic growth made possible through such schemes would benefit programmes for children. Debt relief for children, including debt swaps for investment in social development programmes, should be considered by debtors and creditors. The international community, including private-sector creditors, are urged to work with developing countries and relevant agencies to support debt relief for children. To match increased efforts by developing countries themselves, the donor countries and international institutions should consider targetting more development assistance to primary health care, basic education, low-cost water and sanitation programmes and other interventions specifically endorsed in the Summit Declaration and this Plan of Action.

32. The international community has recognized the need to stop and reverse the increasing marginalization of the least developed countries, including most countries of sub-Saharan Africa and many land-locked and island countries that face special development problems. These countries will require additional long-term international support to complement their own national efforts to meet the pressing needs of children over the 1990s.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AND MONITORING

33. Effective implementation of this Plan of Action will require concerted national action and international co-operation. As affirmed in the Declaration, such action and co-operation must be guided by the principle of a "first call for children"—a principle that the essential needs of children should be given high priority in the allocation of resources, in bad times as well as in good times, at national and international as well as at family levels.

34. It is particularly important that the child-specific actions proposed must be pursued as part of strengthening broader national development programmes combining revitalized economic growth, poverty reduction, human resource development and environmental protection. Such programmes must also strengthen community organizations, inculcate civic responsibility and be sensitive to the cultural heritage and social values which support progress without alienation of the younger generation. With these broad objectives in mind, we commit ourselves and our Governments to the following actions:

Action at the national level

(i) All Governments are urged to prepare, before the end of 1991, national programmes of action to implement the commitments undertaken in the World Summit Declaration and this Plan of Action. National Governments should encourage and assist provincial and local governments as well as NGOs, the private sector and civic groups to prepare their own programmes of action to help to implement the goals and objectives included in the Declaration and this Plan of Action;

(ii) Each country is encouraged to re-examine in the context of its national plans, programmes and policies, how it might accord higher priority to programmes for the well-being of children in general, and for meeting over the 1990s the major goals for child survival, development and protection as enumerated in the World Summit Declaration and this Plan of Action;

(iii) Each country is urged to re-examine in the context of its particular national situation, its current national budget, and in the case of donor countries, their development assistance budgets, to ensure that programmes aimed at the achievement of goals for the survival, protection and development of children will have a priority when

resources are allocated. Every effort should be made to ensure that such programmes are protected in times of economic austerity and structural adjustments;

(iv) Families, communities, local governments, NGOs, social, cultural, religious, business and other institutions, including the mass media, are encouraged to play an active role in support of the goals enunciated in this Plan of Action. The experience of the 1980s shows that it is only through the mobilization of all sectors of society, including those that traditionally did not consider child survival, protection and development as their major focus, that significant progress can be achieved in these areas. All forms of social mobilization, including the effective use of the great potential of the new information and communication capacity of the world, should be marshalled to convey to all families the knowledge and skills required for dramatically improving the situation of children;

(v) Each country should establish appropriate mechanisms for the regular and timely collection, analysis and publication of data required to monitor relevant social indicators relating to the well-being of children—such as neonatal, infant and under-5 mortality rates, maternal mortality and fertility rates, nutritional levels, immunization coverage, morbidity rates of diseases of public health importance, school enrolment and achievement and literacy rates—which record the progress being made towards the goals set forth in this Plan of Action and corresponding national plans of action. Statistics should be disaggregated by gender to ensure that any inequitable impact of programmes on girls and women can be monitored and corrected. It is particularly important that mechanisms be established to alert policy makers quickly to any adverse trends to enable timely corrective action. Indicators of human development should be periodically reviewed by national leaders and decision makers, as is currently done with indicators of economic development;

(vi) Each country is urged to re-examine its current arrangements for responding to natural disasters and man-made calamities which often afflict women and children the hardest. Countries that do not have adequate contingency planning for disaster preparedness are urged to establish such plans, seeking support from appropriate international institutions where necessary;

(vii) Progress towards the goals endorsed in the Summit Declaration and this Plan of Action could be further accelerated, and solutions to many other major problems confronting children and families greatly facilitated, through further research and development. Governments, industry and academic institutions are requested to increase their

efforts in both basic and operational research, aimed at new technical and technological breakthroughs, more effective social mobilization and better delivery of existing social services. Prime examples of the areas in which research is urgently needed include, in the field of health, improved vaccination technologies, malaria, AIDS, respiratory infections, diarrhoeal diseases, nutritional deficiencies, tuberculosis, family planning and care of the newborn. Similarly there are important research needs in the area of early child development, basic education, hygiene and sanitation, and in coping with the trauma facing children who are uprooted from their families and face other particularly difficult circumstances. Such research should involve collaboration among institutions in both the developing and the industrialized countries of the world.

Action at the international level

35. Action at the community and national levels is, of course, of critical importance in meeting the goals and aspirations for children and development. However, many developing countries, particularly the least developed and the most indebted ones, will need substantial international co-operation to enable them to participate effectively in the world-wide effort for child survival, protection and development. Accordingly, the following specific actions are proposed to create an enabling international environment for the implementation of this Plan of Action.

(i) All international development agencies—multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental—are urged to examine how they can contribute to the achievement of the goals and strategies enunciated in the Declaration and this Plan of Action as part of more general attention to human development in the 1990s. They are requested to report their plans and programmes to their respective governing bodies before the end of 1991 and periodically thereafter;

(ii) All regional institutions, including regional political and economic organizations, are requested to include consideration of the Declaration and this Plan of Action on the agenda of their meetings, including at the highest political level, with a view to developing agreements for mutual collaboration for implementation and ongoing monitoring;

(iii) Full co-operation and collaboration of all relevant United Nations agencies and organs as well as other international institutions are requested in ensuring the achievement of the goals and objectives of the national plans envisaged in the World Summit Declaration and Plan of Action. The governing bodies of all concerned agencies are requested to ensure that within their mandates the fullest possible support is given by these agencies for the achievement of these goals;

(iv) The assistance of the United Nations is requested to institute appropriate mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of this Plan of Action, using existing expertise of the relevant United Nations statistical offices, the specialized agencies, UNICEF and other United Nations organs. Furthermore, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is requested to arrange for a mid-decade review, at all appropriate levels, of the progress being made towards implementing the commitments of the Declaration and Plan of Action;

(v) As the world's lead agency for children, the United Nations Children's Fund is requested to prepare, in close collaboration with the relevant specialized agencies and other United Nations organs, a consolidated analysis of the plans and actions undertaken by individual countries and the international community in support of the child-related development goals for the 1990s. The governing bodies of the relevant specialized agencies and United Nations organs are requested to include a periodic review of the implementation of the Declaration and this Plan of Action at their regular sessions and to keep the General Assembly of the United Nations, through the Economic and Social Council, fully informed of progress to date and additional action required during the decade ahead.

36. The goals enunciated in the Declaration and this Plan of Action are ambitious and the commitments required to implement them will demand consistent and extraordinary effort on the part of all concerned. Fortunately, the necessary knowledge and techniques for reaching most of the goals already exist. The financial resources required are modest in relation to the great achievements that beckon. And the most essential factor—the provision to families of the information and services necessary to protect their children—is now within reach in every country and for virtually every community. There is no cause which merits a higher priority than the protection and development of children, on whom the survival, stability and advancement of all nations—and, indeed, of human civilization—depends. Full implementation of the Declaration and this Plan of Action must therefore be accorded a high priority for national action and international co-operation.

Appendix

GOALS FOR CHILDREN AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE 1990s

The following goals have been formulated through extensive consultation in various international forums attended by virtually all Governments, the relevant United Nations agencies including the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a large number of NGOs. These goals are recommended for implementation by all countries where they are applicable, with appropriate adaptation to the specific situation of each country in terms of phasing, standards, priorities and availability of resources, with respect for cultural, religious and social traditions. Additional goals that are particularly relevant to a country's specific situation should be added in its national plan of action.

I. MAJOR GOALS FOR CHILD SURVIVAL, DEVELOPMENT AND PROTECTION

(a) Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of infant and under-5 child mortality rate by one third or to 50 and 70 per 1,000 live births respectively, whichever is less;

(b) Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of maternal mortality rate by half;

(c) Between 1990 and the year 2000, reduction of severe and moderate malnutrition among under-5 children by half;

(d) Universal access to safe drinking water and to sanitary means of excreta disposal;

(e) By the year 2000, universal access to basic education and completion of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children;

(f) Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level with emphasis on female literacy;

(g) Improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances.

II. SUPPORTING/SECTORAL GOALS

A. Women's health and education

(i) Special attention to the health and nutrition of the female child and to pregnant and lactating women;

(ii) Access by all couples to information and services to prevent pregnancies that are too early, too closely spaced, too late or too many;

(iii) Access by all pregnant women to pre-natal care, trained attendants during childbirth and referral facilities for high-risk pregnancies and obstetric emergencies;

(iv) Universal access to primary education with special emphasis for girls and accelerated literacy programmes for women.

B. Nutrition

(i) Reduction in severe, as well as moderate malnutrition among under-5 children by half of 1990 levels;

(ii) Reduction of the rate of low birth weight (2.5 kg or less) to less than 10 per cent;

(iii) Reduction of iron deficiency anaemia in women by one third of the 1990 levels;

(iv) Virtual elimination of iodine deficiency disorders;

(v) Virtual elimination of vitamin A deficiency and its consequences, including blindness;

(vi) Empowerment of all women to breast-feed their children exclusively for four to six months and to continue breast-feeding, with complementary food, well into the second year;

(vii) Growth promotion and its regular monitoring to be institutionalized in all countries by the end of the 1990s;

(viii) Dissemination of knowledge and supporting services to increase food production to ensure household food security.

C. Child health

(i) Global eradication of poliomyelitis by the year 2000;

(ii) Elimination of neonatal tetanus by 1995;

(iii) Reduction by 95 per cent in measles deaths and reduction by 90 per cent of measles cases compared to pre-immunization levels by 1995, as a major step to the global eradication of measles in the longer run;

(iv) Maintenance of a high level of immunization coverage (at least 90 per cent of children under one year of age by the year 2000) against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis and against tetanus for women of child-bearing age;

(v) Reduction by 50 per cent in the deaths due to diarrhoea in children under the age of five years and 25 per cent reduction in the diarrhoea incidence rate;

(vi) Reduction by one third in the deaths due to acute respiratory infections in children under five years.

D. Water and sanitation

(i) Universal access to safe drinking water;

(ii) Universal access to sanitary means of excreta disposal;

(iii) Elimination of guinea-worm disease (dracunculiasis) by the year 2000.

E. Basic education

(i) Expansion of early childhood development activities, including appropriate low-cost family- and community-based interventions;

(ii) Universal access to basic education, and achievement of primary education by at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children through formal schooling or non-formal education of comparable learning standard, with emphasis on reducing the current disparities between boys and girls;

(iii) Reduction of the adult illiteracy rate (the appropriate age group to be determined in each country) to at least half its 1990 level, with emphasis on female literacy;

(iv) Increased acquisition by individuals and families of the knowledge, skills and values required for better living, made available through all educational channels, including the mass media, other forms of modern and traditional communication and social action, with effectiveness measured in terms of behavioural change.

F. Children in difficult circumstances

Provide improved protection of children in especially difficult circumstances and tackle the root causes leading to such situations.

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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS
ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PRINCIPLE OF PERIODIC AND GENUINE ELECTIONS
ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY CO-ORDINATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 10 October 1990 from the Head of the Delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose the text of the Soviet Union's memorandum "The United Nations in the post-confrontation world".

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 56, 76, 110, 122 and 144, and of the Security Council.

E. SHEVARDNADZE

ANNEX

The United Nations in the post-confrontation world

(Memorandum by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

The uniqueness of the current juncture in world history presents opportunities to multilateral mechanisms for agreeing on the actions of States, and above all to the universal forum, the United Nations. The world's entry into the post-confrontation era, the advent of partnership in place of rivalry and the affirmation of the primacy of law open up unprecedented prospects for a comprehensive demonstration of the peace-making potential of the United Nations in line with the purposes embodied 45 years ago in its Charter.

The Soviet Union welcomes the increasingly vigorous renewal of the United Nations. Our conceptual approach to the strategic role of the Organization in the new structure of international relations is described in the article of 17 September 1987 by M. S. Gorbachev, "Reality and safeguards for a secure world", and in his statement at the United Nations on 7 December 1988.

Recent events confirm the ability of the Organization to act as a stabilizer and regulator of world politics during a period of far-reaching transformations. The further strengthening of multilateralism will serve as an extremely important guarantee of the irreversibility of positive changes, and will promote the emergence of the entire range of international relations into a phase of peaceful and secure development.

Today, we propose the formulation, with the United Nations playing a central role, of an integrated strategy for global partnership for the 1990s and the beginning of the next century. It should be based on the only criteria for planet-wide coexistence - balance of interests and freedom of choice, political realism and responsible behaviour on the part of States, safeguarding of democracy and human rights, mutually advantageous economic co-operation and adherence to openness and the rule of law in strict conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

In order to build a partnership of this kind, the activity of the Organization needs to be improved in all spheres - military and political, environmental, economic, scientific and technical and humanitarian - and collective answers need to be found to both the traditional and the new challenges of security.

We are convinced that the initial potential of the Organization is far from exhausted, and can be fully released through a post-confrontational reading of its Charter. There can be no disagreement with the Secretary-General's insight that the Charter "gains richer meaning as political evolution progressively enlarges and clarifies the scope of its principles".

What needs to be done is, on the basis of the experience gained in recent months, strengthened by the spirit of co-operation, to adapt the activity of the structures of multilateral diplomacy to the requirements of the emerging phase of world development, to the new "agenda" of mankind. Particular importance in this context attaches to a purposeful enhancement of the performance of the principal organs of the United Nations - the Security Council, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of which he is the head.

The purpose of this memorandum is to set forth the views of the Soviet Union on the functions of the United Nations in these new conditions and on ways of increasing the effectiveness and renewing the activity of United Nations mechanisms in the post-confrontational world.

* * *

1. In recent years, the world community has seen the Security Council taking really significant action. Nevertheless, the task is not simply to build on what has been achieved, but also to advance the Council to a qualitatively different plane of world responsibility. While consolidating the undoubted successes the Council has achieved in resolving regional conflicts, it will be necessary in the future to place greater emphasis on the Council's preventive capabilities, transforming it into a centre for forestalling crises.

Thought might usefully be given to ways of organizing still closer and more regular interaction between the permanent and non-permanent members of the Council, and to establishing day-to-day links between the Council and the Secretary-General, while at the same time enhancing his role.

The recent experience in holding meetings with the participation of ministers for foreign affairs is promising, and needs to be further developed. The Secretary-General's proposal that periodic and possibly closed meetings of the Council should be held to survey the scene in conflict regions and identify new points of danger at which preventive diplomacy may be required is a well-timed initiative. Also timely - especially in the light of recent events - is the idea of holding meetings of the Council away from Headquarters.

It seems to us desirable that the question of the Council's new functions on the threshold of the twenty-first century should be comprehensively discussed at a high political level.

In order to be effective in keeping the peace, the United Nations should also have at its disposal means of neutralizing aggression. In the light of this requirement, the Military Staff Committee should be transformed into an effective organ of co-operation.

Substantive meetings of the Committee should become a regular practice, and a study should be made of the practical aspects of making national troop contingents available to the Security Council on the basis of agreements concluded between the

Council and Members of the United Nations. The Soviet Union is ready to conclude an agreement of this kind with the Security Council. The Military Staff Committee should also - perhaps with the participation of a broad range of States - discuss the entire range of organizational issues connected with counteracting acts of aggression. The timely drafting in the Committee of a model for joint air-sea operations would be particularly important.

These mechanisms could be supplemented by establishing under the Security Council a group of experts on emergency actions to deal with mass hostage-taking, terrorism and cases of blackmail involving the use of highly dangerous types of weapons, including nuclear weapons. The Council could study the question of forming "rapid response" units composed, on a contractual basis, of special contingents from various countries, including the permanent members of the Council.

It would be useful to establish, with the assistance of the Security Council, a multilateral centre for reducing the risk of war. This centre could, among other things, promote continuous exchange of information with the capitals of the States which are permanent members of the Council, and also with the Chairman of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, and could enhance the possibilities available to the United Nations Secretary-General for discharging his obligations. Such a centre, under the aegis of the United Nations, could in the longer term be functionally linked with similar structures, first of all in Europe and subsequently in the Middle East and other regions.

It would be in the common interest to expand further the scope of application and preventive capabilities of peace-keeping operations, to strengthen their financial basis, and to secure the active involvement of the permanent members of the Security Council. It would be useful to establish a consolidated register of countries prepared to dispatch their own contingents for service in United Nations forces and to set up a reserve of United Nations armed forces and observers. The Soviet Union is prepared to consider detaching a military contingent and participating in logistical and technological support for United Nations peace-keeping operations.

One long-term course of action would be to organize all-round co-operation between the United Nations and regional organizations, which could provide effective assistance in the formulation of the criteria of sufficiency for defence purposes and in the achievement of a balance of arsenals at the lowest possible levels. It is important to have a deeper understanding of present and future parameters for such co-operation and to give full effect to Chapter VIII of the Charter, on regional arrangements. These purposes would be served by the preparation of a comprehensive study by the United Nations on ways of establishing a regional security structure with the United Nations performing the central role.

2. The United Nations Secretary-General is a major political figure of the present day, enjoying the confidence of the world community and the right to use broad initiative in promoting the maintenance of international peace and the enhancement of the role of the United Nations in all aspects of security.

The effectiveness of the United Nations as a world-wide guarantor of security is directly linked with the availability of up-to-date, exhaustive and objective information. It is therefore necessary to expand significantly the capabilities of the Organization and of the Secretary-General in the field of fact-finding - in the gathering and analysis of information on the actual situation in areas of existing and potential threats to global security, including fact-finding missions, missions of inquiry, and the use of the latest technology.

The practice of appointing special representatives of the Secretary-General to assist in solving critical issues of the present day has justified itself. Obviously the good offices of the Secretary-General would also be useful in the context of a Middle East settlement and the convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

3. Openness must become a universal principle of international life. It would be useful to supplement the international register of conventional-arms transfers being prepared under United Nations auspices with the annual submission to the United Nations of data on the strength of States' armed forces, on the basic types of weapons they possess, and also on the numbers of their troops outside the national territory. In future, a consolidated international military register of this kind could become a subsidiary organ of the United Nations.

The Soviet Union favours a comprehensive approach to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and bacteriological weapons, of missiles and missile technology, and of conventional weapons of mass destruction. We propose the study in the United Nations of the possibility of establishing international machinery for preventing proliferation of the latest types of weapons and of the technology for their production.

4. It is important for the General Assembly to concentrate its efforts on making a radical transition to practical matters and enhancing its effectiveness in the fundamental restructuring of international relations. The Assembly should focus its attention on priority issues of major importance and practical significance. To that end, steps should be taken to reduce, by agreement, the overall number of resolutions it adopts.

General Assembly resolutions should be made effective, particularly by means of consensus. It would be possible to research the question of the significance and legal consequences of consensus in the adoption of General Assembly resolutions.

The standards of conduct being established by the United Nations should become the bench-mark policy for all. It is important that such standards, as embodied in General Assembly resolutions, should be duly considered in the formulation of national policy and domestic legislation.

The possibility should not be ruled out of establishing, where necessary and taking into account the Organization's state of finances, new subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly to tackle the growing transboundary problems of the present day, such as the question of the environment.

5. A universal partnership must become the central point of a global consensus in the economic sphere. A new line of confrontation must not be allowed to develop, this time between North and South.

It is especially necessary at this time to promote the emergence of multilateral economic interaction at a qualitatively new level. Periodic meetings of the Economic and Social Council at the ministerial level to consider major social and economic policy questions would contribute towards this end; eminent scholars, non-governmental organizations and business circles could be involved in the preparation of such meetings.

More effective utilization of the potential of the United Nations and its specialized agencies could be achieved by giving a genuinely universal character to the economic activities of the United Nations, taking into account the realities of contemporary world economic relations and the major decisions adopted at the special session of the General Assembly on economic questions. It is essential, without delay, to intensify efforts to work out mutually acceptable agreements on a proper reform, under new conditions, of the structure of the intergovernmental machinery of the United Nations in the economic sphere and of the corresponding units of the Secretariat. Appropriate recommendations formulated by the Secretary-General, perhaps, jointly with other members of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination, could provide the impetus for achieving this goal.

The exceptionally complex and global character of scientific and technological progress and its impact in all spheres of international security have once again raised the question of an agreed policy in that area. The United Nations and the organizations and agencies in its system should and must play a leading role in this regard. An urgent need has arisen for the convening, after suitable preparation, of a representative forum, under the auspices of the United Nations, on international aspects of scientific and technological progress.

6. In the environmental sphere, there is a need for the establishment within the United Nations Secretariat of a Centre for Emergency Environmental Assistance, the gradual setting up of outer space observation and the monitoring of the state of the environment. Among other things, questions relating to the improvement of United Nations machinery for dealing with environmental protection problems must be given their proper place at the Conference on Environment and Development to be held in 1992.

7. The United Nations must relate the security of the individual directly to the goal of ensuring the national security of States and international security as a whole. It is important, with the help of the United Nations, to secure the consolidation of the universal concepts of human rights and the implementation in all areas of the whole complex of generally accepted and indissolubly linked standards in that field, and the constant improvement of the procedures and mechanisms of international monitoring in the humanitarian field under the auspices of the United Nations.

The importance from the standpoint of the maintenance of international security of the universal strengthening of the principle and practice of free elections as a means of forming national democratic structures is becoming increasingly evident. Efforts should be made to achieve broader United Nations involvement in the preparation and monitoring of free elections.

8. The strengthening of international co-operation with regard to problems of drug addiction and illicit trafficking in drugs is a topical issue. It is clear that the international community should establish integrated machinery in that area and give greater priority to the question in the work of the United Nations.

9. The competence of the International Court of Justice should be studied in the light of the contemporary situation; the effectiveness of the Court should be enhanced and its significance as one of the key components in the strategy for the peaceful settlement of disputes should be sharply increased. To this end, the opinion of the Court should be requested more frequently on specific legal questions and recognition of its compulsory jurisdiction on mutually acceptable conditions should be accelerated.

The principle of non-aggression should be supplemented by the principle of individual responsibility, and the draft Code of Offences against the Peace and Security of Mankind should be completed as quickly as possible.

10. In the long term, efforts should be directed towards improving the machinery of co-ordination and eliminating duplication within the United Nations itself and its specialized agencies. To this end, the importance of the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC), as the principal organ for inter-agency co-ordination in the United Nations system, and the role of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as its Chairman, should be enhanced. The quality of the annual report of ACC on the work of the United Nations system which is currently submitted to the General Assembly should be improved.

Consideration might be given to the idea of involving eminent scholars in the work of the United Nations and of forming a kind of Council of wise men to advise the Secretary-General and to make recommendations regarding the development of international co-operation within the United Nations and throughout the system.

11. It is important to continue to enhance the efficiency of the United Nations Secretariat on the basis of the concept of an independent and highly professional international civil service, taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution and the continuing administrative and budgetary reform of the United Nations.

Strict fulfilment by all Members of the United Nations of their financial obligations under the Charter is essential. The Soviet Union intends to practise what it preaches in this regard. At the same time, with a view to establishing a sound basis for the expanding responsibilities of the Organization, consideration

might be given to the use of new non-traditional sources of financing to fund its activities.

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In submitting these proposals for the consideration of the world community, the Soviet Union is counting on a serious and practical exchange of views between all States. Such an exercise is essential, for the foundations of our common future are being laid today.

The strengthening of the multilateral partnership and the effective renewal of its machinery have already become matters of the highest priority on the threshold of the twenty-first century. To turn the United Nations into a kind of collective centre for the administration of international processes in an interdependent and unitary world in the interests of all is a difficult but realistic and noble goal.